Revamping of catering service in trains

2005. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn plans to revamp its catering services in trains in a big way, to provide variety of its menu, including fast food items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to revamp the Catering Services, certain concrete steps have been taken which include, revision of menu and tariff, training to catering, staff, formation of committees comprising of railway officials/private licences to suggest measures for improvement and drafting of manual on catering and hospitality to provide comprehensive guidelines on all aspects to bring standardisation in quality of services.

Incentives for freight traffic

2006. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have offered incentives to atract more freight traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what has been the response to these incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Railways offer the following incentives to attract more freight traffic:—

(i) Grant of reduced Station to Station rates on commercial considerations subject to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions except for certain specified commodities.

(ii) Grant of freight concession upto 10% on non-programmed imported coal traffic originating on Southern and Western Railways subejct to fulfilment of stipulated condition.

(iii) Grant of 10% discount on incremental traffic offered under the Volume Discount Scheme for the second half of the year 1998-99 as compared to first six months of the financial year in respect of Cement, Iron and Steel, Iron Ore, Sponge Iron and Clinker subject to fulfilment of the stipulated conditions.

(iv) Grant of concession of 10% in freight rates on loading of Cement and Chemical Manures Division 'A', 'B' & 'C ' when loaded in block rakes of open wagons provided such wagons are covered by tarpaulins supplied by the consignors at their own cost.

(v) Grant of concession upto 10% in freight rate on loading of commodities in block rakes of open wagons when booked in the direction of flow of empties subject to fulfilment of laid down conditions.

(c) The response of the industry to these incentives has been generally encouraging.

Railway Projects in N.E.

2007. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the project outlays, year-wise

allocation, target fixed and progress of work made on various railway projects sanctioned in terms of PM's special package for the NE;

(b) the amount of budgetary support claimed and amount sanctioned so far, for completion of those projects;

(c) whether the gauge conversion of Makum Dangori section of NF Railway, declared by PM at Dibrugarh in 1997, has been executed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Details of various Railway Projects, under the new initiatives announced by the Prime Minister for the N.E. Region are as Under:—

Project	Cost	Year-wise Allocation			Amount of Budgetary Support Claimed & Sanctioned. Exp. Upto Mar. 99 +Budgetary outlay for 1999-2000	Target & Progress
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000		
		(Figures in Crores of Rupees)				
Jogighopa Bridge along with Railway line from Jogighopa to Guwahati	637	45	66.9	10	461.94	"Naranaryan Setu "Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Jogighopa along with line upto Goalpara (18.24 Km) has been opened on 15.04.1998 by Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Railway line from Goalpara to Guwahati (125 Km) is targeted to be opened during 1999-2000, for which work is in progress. Commissioning of the project has been delayed due to law and order problem.
Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Bogibeel	1000	0.0001	2	5	7.00	Final location Survey and the detailed investigation for the bridges and approaches by M/ RITES is in progress. Formal approval of CCEA has been received. NECs subsequent view to construct only Road bridge has not been agreed to by Ministry of Home Affairs. RITES have completed the field survey, geo-technical investigations. Further, studies in respect of earthquake hydraulic model, design of Bridge protection work are in progress, RITES report along with estimate is expected by October 1999. No target has been fixed.
Kumarghat-Agartala (120 Kms New Link)	575	4.56	20	40	65.6218	The work has already been approved by CCEA and included in the Railways Budget. Land Acquisition proposal submitted to State

Project	Cost	Year-wise Allocation (Figures in Crores of Rupees)			Amount of Budgetary Support Claimed & Sanctioned. Exp. Upto Mar. 99 +Budgetary outlay for 1999-2000	Target & Progress
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000		
						Government for 815 acres and payment amount in to Rs. 12.10 Crores for land Compensation made to State Government. Possession made over for about 321 acres of land. Efforts are on for acquiring the balance land. Contracts for Earth Work and Minor Bridges covering a length of about 13.5 Kms. Have remaining length from Kumarghat end are in process. Detailed plans for Makor Bridges, RUB and Yards are under preparation. Target date not fixed.
Rail head at Burnihat	—	—	—	—	—	The work was sanctioned in the year 1978-79. However the work could not be done as the State Government could not make the land available for the project due to resistance by local public. Alternative alignment via Degaru was also planned. But since the distance between Guwahati and Burnihat was increasing by Kms. The alignment was not acceptable to State Government and also Ministry of Railways. The work has been deleted from Pink Book. Another work for giving Rail head to Meghalaya (Dudhnoi-Deepa New Line) was sanctioned in the Year 1992-93, where similar problem regarding land acquisition are being faced.

(c) and (d) Gauge Conversion of Makum-Dangori section is being taken up and will be progressed as per the availability of resources.

Occupation of reserved compartments by passengers without reservation

2008. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1179, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th June, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that conductors attached to reserved compartments and the checking squads remain silent spectators when passengers without reservation enter reserved sleeper compartments and occupy seats, causing much inconvenience to passengers with reservation; and

(b) if so, what measures are proposed by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS,